



Mount Vernon Police Ledger

Area Rise in Underage Fatal Accidents

By Lieutenant David A. Russell

During the last months of 2007, numerous fatal crashes involving teenage drivers were reported throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. Although other jurisdictions reported the majority, Fairfax County was not immune. As of December 11, 2007, Fairfax County had recorded 11 accident related deaths under the age of 21, which represents an increase of seven percent compared to the total for 2006. The subsequent investigations into these crashes found the main causes to be excessive speed and driver inexperience.

A common set of circumstances found in several of these incidents were the combination of numerous passengers, speed, and failure to wear seat belts. Based on the media reports concerning the fatal crashes in late 2007, most were single car accidents in which the driver lost control. The question is what can we learn from these crashes to make our children safer in 2008?

The officers of the Mount Vernon

District Station continue to have a zero tolerance for all underage alcohol violations. If an underage driver is found to have consumed any alcohol he or she will be charged. With the roadways of the Mount Vernon District more congested than ever, there is no room for underage, inexperienced drivers who have consumed alcohol.

Most teenagers now have cell phones, and with them comes the ability to text message. As of July 1, 2007, it is against the law for all drivers in Virginia under the age of 18 to use their cell phones while driving. Talking on cell phones or even worse, text messaging while driving your attention away from the road conditions and can seriously delay your reaction time.

Code of Virginia 46.2-334.01 – Except in a driver emergency or when the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped, the holder of a provisional driver's license shall not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth while using

Continue Page 2

Inside this Issue:

Underage Fatal Accidents.....	2
Winter Driving.....	3
Become a CAC Member.....	4
Laws of the Month.....	5
CAC Notes.....	6

Dates to Remember

January 8-CAC Meeting
January 18-Holiday
Lee/Jackson Day
January 21-Holiday
Martin Luther King Jr.

Area Rise in Underage Fatal Accidents

any cellular telephone or any other wireless telecommunications device, regardless of whether such device is or is not hand-held.

Throughout 2007, the Mount Vernon District Station officers aggressively enforced seat belt violations. This included two separate week-long campaigns of education and enforcement. Research has shown that the use of seat belts save lives in accidents. Without using seat belts, occupants in vehicles are at the mercy of the force generated by the accident and more likely to sustain injuries.

Another concern is the number of passengers underage drivers are transporting. Common sense tells us that the more passengers in a vehicle, the more chance the driver can be distracted. This can also lead to young drivers bowing to peer pressure and driving outside their limits. Due to this concern, laws have been enacted to limit the number of passengers younger drivers may transport.

Code of Virginia 46.2-334.01 – The initial license issued to any person younger than 18 years of age shall be deemed a provisional driver's license. Until the holder is 18 years old, a provisional driver's license shall not authorize its holder to operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger who is less than 18 years old for the first year after the license is issued nor more than three passengers who are less than 18 years old thereafter until the holder's eighteenth birthday.

The Mount Vernon District Station officers will continue to enforce all applicable laws in an effort to better protect our underage drivers. Along with this enforcement, School Resource Officers will continue to educate these drivers in their respective high schools concerning safe driving. Unfortunately, the Police Department cannot solve this problem on its own. We need the parents of these underage drivers to reinforce good driving behavior in an attempt to keep them safe. Last year the Mount Vernon District was not immune to underage fatalities after West Potomac High School graduates succumbed to injuries sustained in a crash.

Overall, the Mount Vernon District has seen an 8.9 percent decrease in crash related injuries and fatalities between December 1, 2006 and November 30, 2007 compared to the same period last year. The Mount Vernon District has also seen a 4.5 percent decrease in the total number of all accidents in that time frame. These decreases can be directly related to the hard work and efforts of the Mount Vernon Station's officers.

As we move into a new year, the officers of the Mount Vernon Station will continue our efforts to reduce the tragic loss of life and serious injury resulting from senseless crashes. Our younger drivers are our future and we must continue to educate them on how to become better and safer drivers. May you all have a safe and Happy New Year.



***Lock Your Vehicles
&
Remove All Property
Help us reduce the opportunity
for our communities to be victimized.
Prevention Works!***

Winter Driving: Are you Ready?

Winter is the most difficult driving season. Not only do you have snow and ice to deal with, but there are fewer hours of daylight as well.

- Before winter weather arrives, make sure your vehicle is in good condition, especially the tires.
- Make sure you've got good snow tires and put them on early. Try not to get caught without them in the first snow-fall. Never combine radial and non-radial tires on the same vehicle. On front-wheel drive cars, it's best to put snow tires or "all season" tires on all four wheels, not just the front.
- If you must drive, clear the ice and snow from your vehicle, all windows and windshield wipers. Be sure the windshield washer reservoir is adequately filled with a freeze resistant cleaning solution.
- Plan your route.
 - Be familiar with maps/directions to avoid confusion
 - Check the weather reports and adjust your starting time
 - Let others know the route you are taking and when you plan to arrive
- Always fill the gas tank before entering open country, even for a short distance, and stop to fill up long before the tank begins to run low. Keeping the gas tank as full as possible will minimize condensation, providing the maximum advantage in case of trouble.
- A cell phone can be very useful to you or another stranded motorist in case of an emergency. Remember, pull off the road to talk on the cell phone.



Drive slowly even if your vehicle has good traction in ice and snow, other drivers will be traveling cautiously. Don't disrupt the flow of traffic by driving faster than everyone else. Remember how far it takes to bring your car to a stop on dry pavement? In winter conditions, allow at least three times that distance to reach a full stop and avoid skidding. This means your safe distance behind the car in front of you should be at least three times as far. You must begin braking three times as far away from the stoplight or corner where you turn. In a rear-wheel drive vehicle, you can usually feel a loss of traction at the beginning of a skid. There may be no such warning in a front-wheel drive vehicle. Front-wheel drives do handle better in ice and snow, but they do not have flawless traction, and skids can occur unexpectedly. Don't let the better feel and handling of a front-wheel drive car cause you to drive faster than you should.

To avoid skids, brake carefully and gently on snow and ice. "Squeeze" your brakes in slow steady strokes. If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes do not pump the brakes, apply a steady pressure. Allow the wheels to keep rolling. If they start to lock up, ease off the brake pedal. As you slow down, you may also want to shift into a lower gear. When sleet, freezing rain or snow starts to fall, remember that bridges, ramps and overpasses are likely to freeze first. Also, be aware that slippery spots may still remain after road crews have cleared highways.

<http://www.detricks.army.mil/bulletin/safety/auto/winterdriving.pdf>

Become a member of Fairfax County's Citizen's Advisory Council/Committee

POLICE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

In 1979, the Fairfax County Police Department established a program to enhance its ability to communicate with and better serve the community. This program took the form of advisory groups, known as Citizens' Advisory Committees, comprised of citizens representing a cross-section of the various neighborhoods of Fairfax County. Each of the eight police stations formed a Citizens' Advisory Committee to work hand-in-hand with the station commanders on issues confronting the district. The committees meet on a monthly basis and meetings are open to the public. The purpose of the committees are to:

- Provide a forum for obtaining citizen input about the delivery of police services,
- Provide a formalized process that will facilitate citizen and community cooperation with the police, and
- Identify specific and potential problem areas concerning police services.

In addition to the district committees, a Citizen Advisory Council was established. The council membership is drawn from each of the district committees and functions as a county-wide advisory body to the Chief of Police. The council meets regularly with the Chief and the top staff of the Police Department, and addresses the interests and concerns of the entire County. The Citizens' Advisory Council promotes harmonious police—community relations and works to improve and enhance the Police Department's abilities to provide the best service to the citizens of Fairfax County. Both the Citizens' Advisory Committees and the Citizens' Advisory Council are active participants in the Police Department. Among their many activities:

- Provide advice and comment in the development of long range plans.
- Provide advice and comment during the Police Department's budget formulation and submission.
- Provide support for the development of Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention programs.
- Monitor suspected incidents of racial, religious, or ethnic animosity occurring in Fairfax County and submit an annual report to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The Citizens' Advisory Council responds to and advises the Police Department on virtually every significant policy matter affecting the delivery of police service in Fairfax County. The Council maintains a broad interest in the functioning of the Department and provides an important communications link to all citizens. The Citizens' Advisory Council and the district Citizens' Advisory Committees are comprised of dedicated individuals who receive no compensation beyond the satisfaction of improving their communities and their police department. Their role is critical in maintaining citizen involvement in and support for the continued delivery of professional police service in Fairfax County.

To become a volunteer with the Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee contact:

President Judy Schultheis
Email-Judy.Schultheis@fairfaxcounty.gov

MPO Robbie Clift at 703-360-8400 ext 2259
Email-rclift@fairfaxcounty.gov

PFC Rick Cook at 703-360-8400 ext 2263
Email-Richard.cook@fairfaxcounty.gov



Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee Wants You!!

Laws of the Month

Shoplifting - § 18.2-103. Concealing or taking possession of merchandise; altering price tags; transferring goods from one container to another; counseling, etc., another in performance of such acts.



Whoever, without authority, with the intention of converting goods or merchandise to his own or another's use without having paid the full purchase price thereof, or of defrauding the owner of the value of the goods or merchandise, (i) willfully conceals or takes possession of the goods or merchandise of any store or other mercantile establishment, or (ii) alters the price tag or other price marking on such goods or merchandise, or transfers the goods from one container to another, or (iii) counsels, assists, aids or abets another in the performance of any of the above acts, when

the value of the goods or merchandise involved in the offense is less than \$200, shall be guilty of petit larceny and, when the value of the goods or merchandise involved in the offense is \$200 or more, shall be guilty of grand larceny. The willful concealment of goods or merchandise of any store or other mercantile establishment, while still on the premises thereof, shall be prima facie evidence of an intent to convert and defraud the owner thereof out of the value of the goods or merchandise.

Grand Larceny - § 18.2-95. Grand larceny defined; how punished.

Any person who (i) commits larceny from the person of another of money or other thing of value of \$5 or more, (ii) commits simple larceny not from the person of another of goods and chattels of the value of \$200 or more, or (iii) commits simple larceny not from the person of another of any firearm, regardless of the firearm's value, shall be guilty of grand larceny, punishable by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for not less than one nor more than twenty years or, in the discretion of the jury or court trying the case without a jury, be confined in jail for a period not exceeding twelve months or fined not more than \$2,500, either or both.



cretion of the jury or court trying the case without a jury, be confined in jail for a period not exceeding twelve months or fined not more than \$2,500, either or both.

Petit Larceny - § 18.2-96. Petit larceny defined; how punished.

Any person who:

1. Commits larceny from the person of another of money or other thing of value of less than \$5, or
2. Commits simple larceny not from the person of another of goods and chattels of the value of less than \$200, except as provided in subdivision (iii) of § 18.2-95, shall be deemed guilty of petit larceny, which shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.





Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee

Fairfax County Police Department

Mount Vernon District Station

2511 Parkers Lane

Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Station Phone Number: 703-360-8400

Crime Prevention: 703-360-8928

Email: mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov

Non-Emergency - 703-691-2131

EMERGENCY - 911

***Making Our Community Safer
Through Crime Prevention***

Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee

Chairman - Judy Schultheis

Vice Chairman - Ginger Krup

Treasurer - Marianne Baltimore

Secretary - Mary Alvarado

Mount Vernon District Station

Station Commander - Captain Michael Kline

Assistant Commander - Lieutenant David Russell

Crime Prevention Officer - Rick Cook

Crime Prevention Officer - Robbie Clift



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Call 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2664

**Remember, for Non-Emergency events or reports, call
703-691-2131**

CAC Notes -

Please join us for the Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for:

January 8, 2008 at 7:30pm. CAC members will meet at the Mount Vernon Station for a presentation on domestic violence by Detectives M. McKeon and A. Tabatabaie and PFC T. Forrest.

